

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2082

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENIGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 0571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, PFOR, CT, SU (FSO-7 MOORE, WILLIAM HOWARD)

SUBJECT: AEROFLOT CANCELLATION OF TICKETS

REF: BANGUI 0891

SUMMARY: CLAIMING TICKETS WRITTEN AT TOO LOW A PRICE, AEROFLOT LENINGRAD HAS CANCELLED PORTION OF FSO MOORE'S TICKETS FOR R&R LEAVE FROM BANGUI. EMBASSY BANGUI REQUESTED TAKE UP MATTER WITH BANGUI AEROFLOT OFFICE WHICH WROTE TICKETS. END SUMMARY.

1. FSO-7 MOORE DEPARTED BANGUI AUGUST 24 ON R&R LEAVE WITH WIFE AND DAUGHTER AS SCHEDULED REFTEL. MOORE FAMILY AEROFLOT TICKETS PROVIDED FOR FOLLOWING TRAVEL: BANGUI-MOSCOW; MOSCOW-LENINGRAD; LENINGRAD-BELGRADE; INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA; BELGRADE-MOSCOW; AND MOSCOW-BANGUI. HOWEVER, ON AFTERNOON AUGUST 25 AT LENINGRAD, AEROFLOT OFFICIALS CANCELLED REMAINDER OF TICKETS EXCEPT FOR PORTIONS TO BELGRADE AND FOR INTERNAL YUGOSLAV FLIGHTS. AEROFLOT OFFICIALS GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR ACTIONS OTHER THAN TO CLAIM THAT AEROFLOT TICKETS WRITTEN IN BANGUI AT TOO LOW A PRICE. WHEN MOORE OFFERED MAKE UP ANY DIFFERENCE, OFFICIALS AT AEROFLOT'S INTERNATIONAL SALES AND RESERVATION SERVICE IN LENINGRAD DECLINED MAKE ANY COMPUTATIONS.

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2. IN ADDITION CANCELLING PORTION OF TICKET, AEROFLOT LENIN-

GRAD SAID LENINGRAD-BELGRADE AEROFLOT FLIGHT ON AUGUST 26 CANCELLED AND THAT MOORE FAMILY HAD TO DEPART EVENING AUGUST 25 FOR MOSCOW IN ORDER CATCH 0700 AUGUST 26 MOSCOW-BELGRADE FLIGHT. FAMILY REACHED MOSCOW AT 2200 AUGUST 25 AND HAD BRIEF NIGHT AT HOTEL BERLIN BEFORE ARISING AT 0400 TO CATCH 0700 FLIGHT TO BELGRADE. MOORE DID NOT SUCCEED IN REACHING AMCONSUL LENINGRAD AFTERNOON AUGUST 25, BUT DID REACH EMBASSY MOSCOW DUTY OFFICER AT 0430 AUGUST 26.

3. MOORE REQUESTS EMBASSY BANGUI CHECK WITH AEROFLOT REGARDING TICKET PROBLEM. AEROFLOT BANGUI ISSUED TICKETS FOR CFAF 512,000. AEROFLOT LENINGRAD CLAIMED THAT CFAF 435,100 EXPENDED FOR FLIGHT AS FAR AS BELGRADE. AEROFLOT LENINGRAD ISSUED EXCHANGE ORDER FOR CFAF 52,400 AND PERMITTED TICKETS FOR INTERNAL YUGOSLAV TRAVEL TO STAND. EMBASSY BANGUI REQUESTED ADVISE MOORE CARE OF AMCONSUL ZAGREB OF RESULTS. AEROFLOT HAS ZAGREB OFFICE.

4. COMMENT: ON AUGUST 23 MOORE FAMILY UNEXPECTEDLY MET FOLLOWING CAR OFFICIALS AT MOSCOW CIRCUS: PRESIDENT BOKASSA; FONMIN POTOLET; MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL MISSIONS ALAZOULA; PLUS SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS PRESIDENTIAL PARTY. MOORE ALSO RECALLS SPEAKING IN FRENCH TO STUDENT FROM ALGERIA DURING MOSCOW-LENINGRAD FLIGHT AUGUST 24. MOORE BELIEVES THESE ONLY EVENTS CONNECTION HIS AUGUST 22-26 STAY IN USSR WHICH MIGHT HAVE ATTRACTED SOVIET ATTENTION.
WILSON

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